

Officials Hopeful After Recheck on Navy Annex

Guarded hopes that the decision to offer a 26-acre surplus Navy site to the highest bidder might be reversed were expressed here yesterday by school officials after a close study of the local situation by three high ranking government representatives.

"We were told that they would take the matter back and review it," Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, said after the visit on Tuesday.

Visiting Torrance for a first hand look at the area for the General Services Administration were E. A. Saylor Jr. of the San Francisco office and Jesse W. Evans and R. T. Hollingsworth of the Los Angeles Office.

"Four points which we were able to bring to their attention caused one of the officials to comment that the trip had been profitable to them," Dr. Hull said.

The points stressed by local officials:

Because the district had been able to win approval of a \$15 million bond issue recently, it was assumed that it had plenty of money with which to buy land.

"We pointed out that only one-half of our bond money can be spent for high schools, and we are now committed to spend our high school funds on the West High project in order to get it opened by 1962," the superintendent said. He also pointed out that the district is bonded to its full capacity, and is not yet able to utilize all of the \$15 million now authorized for bonds.

Secondly, Dr. Hull said it was difficult for persons accustomed to typical situations throughout the country to realize that residential land can be as expensive to buy as industrial land. Such is the case in

Torrance, the officials were shown.

Third, the school officials were able to show that there was no other land close enough to Torrance High School to provide expansion room for that location.

And last, the local officials stressed the point that Torrance is not a typical city. Normally industrial land is not used for schools, Dr. Hull admitted, but Torrance has large areas of industrial land and very few areas of residential land large enough to accommodate a high school program.

Complicating the matter, Dr. Hull said, is the uncertain future of development in that area. Current plans are to use the 26 acres for expansion of the Torrance High School athletic facilities if the land is made available to the school district.

The athletic facilities at Torrance High are now located on four acres while athletic facilities at the newer high schools comprise nearly three-fourths of the 40-acre school sites.

With the 26-acre Navy site and some additional land, a fifth high school could logically be established there if the need for one develops.

Joining in on the discussions here Tuesday were R.S. "Dick" Pyle, commercial manager of the Pacific Telephone exchange here and president of the Chamber of Commerce; Ralph M. Hulst, member of Hulst and Whittlesey, real estate appraisal firm that has made a number of appraisals in the area; S. F. Waldrip, assistant superintendent of schools for business; and Dr. Bernard Garen, director of new construction for the school district.

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Torrance Herald

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

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A Penny for your Thoughts

With school soon to open, the Pennies Reporter asked students returning to school, "What will you be looking forward to most when school re-opens?"

Answering were:

Diane Mitchell, 2529 W. 155th St., Gardena, 8th grade student at Perry Jr. High:

"I'm just wondering what period I'll have for my lunch hour. I like school, especially the art classes. This year as one of my electives, I am going to take ceramics and I am looking forward to that class, and for the other, I am taking child care. They both should be interesting, I think."

Marie Brooker, 18426 St. Andrews Pl., a 7th grade student at Hamilton:

"I don't like school so I am not looking forward to anything especially. It's just one of those things you can't do much about so I guess I'll go and like it. I wish I went to a school where they changed classrooms though. I don't like the idea of having to stay in the same room with the same teacher the whole day. I don't like homework either."

Jerry Edwards, 1548 W. 261 St., 10th grade student at Narbonne:

"I just graduated from junior high school last June so I sorta looking forward to school opening because it'll be a new school for me and naturally different. I like sports and so I'll try to participate in some. I'll also get to meet some of the old friends from Elementary school who went to a different junior high than I did."

Harold Drake, 20908 Jamison, 10th grade student at Gardena High:

"I'm just going into high school from junior high so I am looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones in the new school. I'm also quite anxious to see what high school is like. I'm taking an Industrial Arts course and hope to advance my knowledge of electronics. I am especially looking forward to the shop courses they offer because I like those best."

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CRASH KILLS TORRANCE MAN

City to Hold Line on Tax Rate for '61

The city council voted Tuesday to hold the city's tax rate at 1.288 for each \$100 of assessed valuation, last year's tax rate, and formally adopted the budget submitted by City Manager George Stevens calling for expenditures of \$7,695,580 for the year beginning last July 1.

Top Mormon Leaders To Speak Here

Elder Marion D. Hanks, a member of the First Council of Seventy, and Elder LeRoy A. Wirthlin, a member of the General Church Welfare Committee of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon) from Salt Lake City, will be featured speakers Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 27 and 28, during a quarterly conference of the Church's Redondo Stake.

Sunday's general sessions, to which the public is invited, will be held at 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., at 2000 West 175th St., Torrance.

CONDUCTING the conference will be Stake President L. Lloyd Prestwich, 2707 W. 182nd St.

Elder Hanks is a nationally-known youth leader and member of President Eisenhower's Youth Fitness Committee. He holds a degree in law but devoted himself to teaching religion.

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General property taxes at the \$1.288 rate will provide \$2,527,203 for the city's budget, the balance to come from unsecured property taxes, sales taxes, fines and forfeitures, and from other sources.

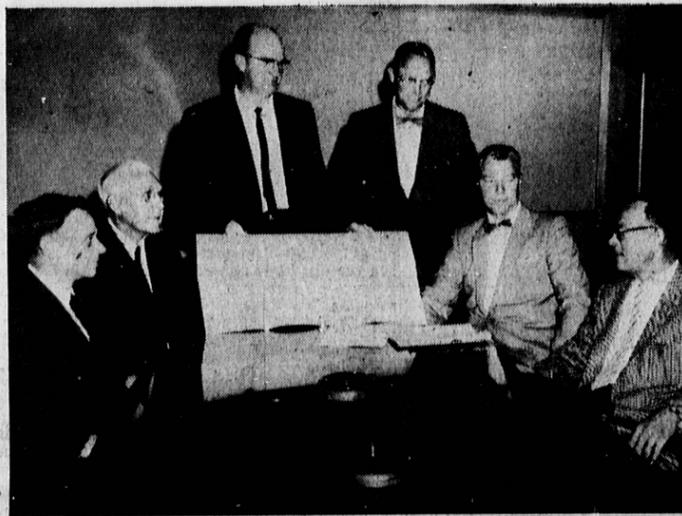
THE CITY'S tax rate is expected to provide \$1,911,100 for general municipal purposes, according to Finance Director Jerome I. Scharfman. Other tax funds for library purposes will total \$125,575; for employees retirement, \$294,317; for bond retirement, \$23,545; and for recreation, \$117,727.

A RAY OF cheer for taxpayers was contained in another announcement this week—the Metropolitan Water District is cutting its tax rate from 17 to 16 cents.

District Board Chairman Joseph Jensen pointed out that this is the 10th time in the last 11 years that the District has reduced its tax rate.

THIS YEAR'S tax reduction is made possible largely due to increased revenues from water sales, Jensen said.

On other fronts, however, taxes can be expected to jump—especially the rate for schools and the county. The net effect for local taxpayers will be more taxes than ever this year.



PROBE LAND DISPUTE . . . Discussing what School Superintendent J. H. Hull dubbed "Operation Land Grab," are local officials and representatives of the federal government's General Services Administration who visited here Tuesday. From the left are E. A. Saylor Jr., acting chief of the disposal branch in the GSA's San Francisco office; Ralph M. Huts, appraiser; Dr. Hull; Chamber President R. S. "Dick" Pyle; R. T. Hollingsworth and Jesse W. Evans, of the GSA's Los Angeles office. (Herald Photo)

Senior Citizen Plan For Village Dropped

Plans for a Senior Citizens Village here which were presented to the city council earlier this summer came to an end Tuesday night as the city council voted to deny a variance request "without prejudice."

The council's decision to deny the matter came after Planning Director George Powell noted that backers of the project had not expressed any

further interest in the matter after the council tabled it two months ago.

THE PROJECT met a cool reception when presented last June. While members of the council at the time expressed agreement with the aims of the developers, the matter of taxes on the multimillion-dollar development led to postponement of a decision then.

In other action, the council asked for a report from Building Superintendent Lee Schless on the status of billboards throughout the city, which face a Jan. 1, 1961, deadline.

ALSO requested from Wade Peebles, director of public works, was a report on the status of Dominguez St. between Crenshaw and Sartori.

The council has been seeking additional right of way from Pacific Electric Ry. so the street can be widened.

Councilmen expressed general approval of a suggestion by George Vico that the city urge the county to set aside a portion of the local beaches for surfers to eliminate the restricted hours and dangerous conditions existing when surfers and bathers are in the same area.

LETTERS TO the Supervisors and others in the county were suggested as an appropriate means of passing along the city's feelings on the matter. Vico also said there was "some talk of charging kids \$5 to surf." Such a charge, in the form of a city license, has been inaugurated by beach cities between here and San Diego.

Wife Injured As Auto Hits Parked Car

A car which slammed into a parked auto, then careened into a service road near 118th St. and Crenshaw claimed the life of a 29-year-old Torrance man Tuesday and injured his wife, according to Torrance police. Pronounced dead at Little Company of Mary Hospital two hours after the early morning crash was Horace Eric Salmon, who resided at 1632 W. 203rd St. A desperate attempt by a team of physician's to save Salmon's life failed after a two-hour battle.

INVESTIGATING officers reported that the auto in which Salmon and his estranged wife were riding crashed into a parked car registered to Albert L. Pacinas of 18803 Crenshaw Blvd. Mrs. Genevieve Dorothy Salmon, identified as driver of the vehicle, received severe injuries.

ANOTHER traffic crash victim, Mrs. Mattie Widby, 51, of 1532 W. 226th St., has been released from Harbor General Hospital where she was admitted after a crash at Western Ave. and 223rd St. late Saturday.

Mrs. Widby was a passenger in an auto driven by James W. Widby, 49, which was involved in a collision with a pickup truck driven by David S. Collins, 24, of 23927 Crenshaw Blvd.

Gunman Slain By Store Clerk

A 19-year-old Torrance youth shot and killed in a holdup in Van Nuys last Friday was identified Tuesday by police as Wesley James Slater, 21219 Figueroa. Identification was delayed because of several aliases which the youthful gunman used.

Slater and two companions allegedly approached a Van Nuys liquor store clerk and took \$540 in cash. The clerk fired three shots at the trio as they fled, hitting Slater. Police later arrested Lova Jean Runyon and Gary J. Collins.

Plea Due Sept. 14 In Death

Preliminary hearing for a 61-year-old Torrance woman on charges of manslaughter growing out of an automobile accident has been set for Sept. 14 in Department 1 of the Compton Municipal Court.

Mrs. Viola Pitman, who resides at 322 E. Carson St., was arraigned this week on the charges in the Compton court. The charges against Mrs. Pitman were filed after Carl Wilbert Hunnewell, 21, of Long Beach was killed in a traffic accident at Carson St. and Avalon Blvd. on the morning of Aug. 10.

Investigating officers said the Pitman vehicle struck Hunnewell's cycle, knocking it into the path of an auto driven by Lloyd Taylor, 53, of Compton.

Aerona Degreasing Unit Catches Fire

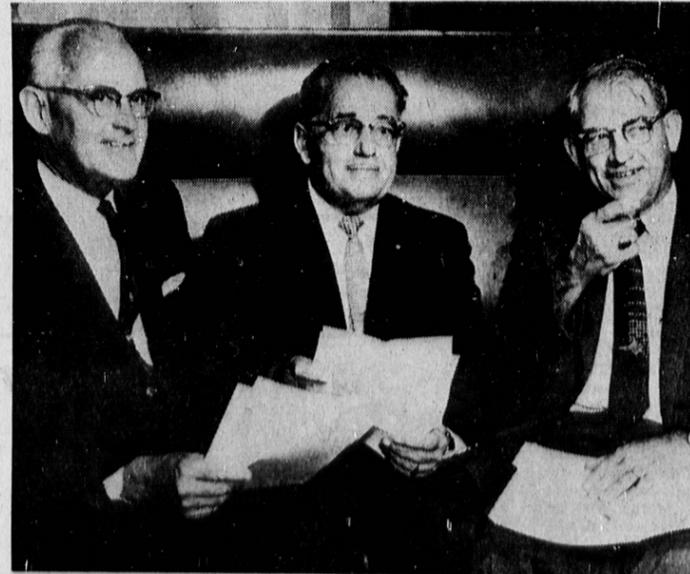
Firemen responded to an alarm at Aerona Corp. facility, 2576 W. Carson St., Sunday afternoon shortly after 4 p.m.

On arrival the firemen found the switch to a degreasing unit on and reported the unit had overheated. Control of the fire was established in less than two minutes.

No estimate of damages was made.

Urge Freeway Link

Los Angeles city councilmen voted Tuesday to send a resolution calling for funds to complete the San Diego Freeway link between Jefferson Blvd. and 174th St., to the State Highway Commission. The resolution was introduced by L. E. Timberlake.



DISCUSS RULES . . . Getting things in order for the Rotarian Convention at the Plush Horse Inn are E. J. Champion, president of the Redondo Beach Club and chairman of the event; Scott Metcalf Sr., past governor of District 530 and special representative of Rotary International, and Paul L. Duke, 528 District Governor. More than 30 clubs will convene for the District 528 convention on Sept. 10 at the local inn.

Torrance Schools To Open Sept. 14

Torrance schools re-open Sept. 14 for the fall term and more than 2000 new students are expected to swell the population of the three high schools and 31 elementary schools to a record 27,000. Superintendent of Schools Dr. J. H. Hull made this announcement this week.

Some 5500 high school students and 21,350 elementary students are expected to complete enrollment before school re-opens.

Staffing the schools will be some 1008 certified personnel—this includes teachers and

administrators, as well as other professional people—and 516 non-teaching staff members. They will report for duty on Sept. 8.

Five schools, including two elementary schools to be used for the first time this fall, will have new principals. The new principals are: Philip Korman, Anza; Roy Adamson, Riviera; John McGee, Madison; John Kasser, Steele; and Richard Groshong, Towers. Almost 250 new teachers have been hired. Some new teachers were necessary because of retirements.

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BACK TO SCHOOL PRIZES, VALUES

As a special feature of their Back to School sales promotion, Downtown Torrance Retailers will award \$50 merchandise gift certificates to a lucky girl and boy attending school this fall.

An entry blank, which must be filled out by an adult, is included in a special Downtown Retail Merchants Assn. advertisement on Page 2 in today's HERALD.

Blanks also may be obtained at participating stores free of charge. Selection of the winners has been scheduled for Sept. 10.

Scores of Back to School values and news stories of school plans are featured in today's HERALD.